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January 6, 2006

VIA FACSIMILE

To: Examiner Joshua T. Kennedy
Group Art Unit: 3679
U.S.P.T.O.

Facsimile No.: (571) 273-8300

From: James E. Howard

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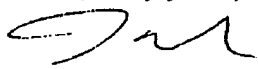
Re: Enclosed Amendment After Final Under 37 CFR §1.116
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/773,573
Docket No.: P21-164404M/ISI

Dear Examiner Kennedy:

Enclosed for filing is an Amendment in response to the Final Office Action mailed on October 11, 2005, which should place the above-referenced case in condition for allowance.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration on this case.

Very truly yours,



James E. Howard

JEH/geb
Enclosures
Total pages transmitted: 11

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Kojima et al.

Serial No.: 10/773,573

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filed: February 9, 2004

Examiner: Joshua T. Kennedy

For: SECURING CLIP

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Box AF
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 11, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1-20 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 12-14, and 17 are amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 1 and 14 are independent.

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